

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** NVEC Mobile Transformer Lease at Nespelem Substation

**Project No.:** N0882

**Project Manager:** Jennifer Gumm, TPCF-Mead

**Location:** Okanogan County, WA

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B.4.11 Electric power substation and interconnection facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to provide a temporary lease of a BPA mobile transformer to Nespelem Valley Electric Cooperative (NVEC) for use at their Nespelem Substation to repair a transformer oil leak.

BPA would transport the mobile transformer to the Nespelem Substation, as well as, transport the transformer back to BPA's designated storage location at the end of the lease. BPA would perform all mobile transformer installation work at Nespelem Substation, and perform all work to disconnect the mobile transformer upon notice by NVEC of completion of their repair work.

The project installation would occur within an existing substation facility, would not require major exterior building modification, would not require major interior building modifications, and would not require any new ground disturbing activities by BPA. The Nespelem substation is located in Washington Township 30 North, Range 30 East, Section 1.

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, Jul. 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- 1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- 2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- 3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Christopher H. Furey  
Christopher H. Furey  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Katey C. Grange</u>	<u>May 6, 2022</u>
Katey C. Grange	Date
NEPA Compliance Officer	

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

# Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

**Proposed Action:** NVEC Mobile Transformer Lease at Nespelem Substation

## **Project Site Description**

The lease and installation of the mobile transformer would occur at NVEC's Nespelem Substation in Okanogan County, WA. Surrounding land uses include some office and commercial buildings and some residential development. The broader area is mostly undeveloped dry land with some agriculture and areas of evergreen trees. The intermittent Little Nespelem River is located about 2500 feet northwest of the substation.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA Archaeologist reviewed proposed activities involved for the mobile transformer installation and determined that that these types of activities do not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance for installation and use of the mobile transformer at Nespelem Substation would occur. There would be no impacts to soils and geology.

### **3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance in areas with vegetation would occur and no plants would be disturbed.

### **4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur on substation facility property. No wildlife present.

### **5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur on existing substation facility property. No water body or fish present.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur on existing substation facility property. No wetlands are present at the project area.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The mobile transformer would be installed and tested at the existing substation facility with appropriate spill containment equipment. No ground or groundwater disturbance would occur.

## **8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use would occur.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No permanent change in the visual character of the facility would occur.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, temporary generation of emissions associated with vehicle traffic to the substation would occur for the installation and removal.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, intermittent noise associated with installation and testing of the mobile transformer meter. Temporary noise would be consistent with current substation operations and no ongoing noise increase would be expected.

## **12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impacts expected.

## **Evaluation of Other Integral Elements**

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

**Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.**

Explanation: N/A

**Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.**

Explanation: N/A

**Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.**

Explanation: N/A

**Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.**

Explanation: N/A

### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA Transmission would be in coordination with NVEC for the installation of the transformer at Nespelem Substation.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts to any environmentally sensitive resource.

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey May 6, 2022  
Christopher H. Furey Date  
Environmental Protection Specialist